

County Report

METROPOLITAN
KING COUNTY
COUNCIL
DISTRICT 11

COUNTY RE-DISTRICTING COMPLETED

On Saturday, January 15, 2005, an independent five-member Re-Districting Commission unanimously approved a new County Council map consisting of nine King County Council districts. The map, reducing the size of the Council from its current 13 members to the 9 members mandated by the voters of King County in November, was the result of just over six weeks of intense effort on the part of the Commission.

Background on the Charter Amendment and the process that was required for meeting its requirements can be accessed on the King County Council's website at: <http://www.metrokc.gov/mkcc/districting/index.htm>. The map on the reverse side is of the new 6th Council District, which will include most of our current 11th District, with the exception of Firlock precinct and part of Syrah, which will be in the newly drawn 3rd District. By going to <http://www.metrokc.gov/elections/redistricting/index.htm>, you can access a map showing how Council Districts for the entire County will look in 2006. A list of Frequently Asked Questions and links to other sources of information will also soon be accessible from that site.



A REMARKABLE ACCOMPLISHMENT

The Re-Districting Commission was made up of two Republicans and two Democrats appointed by the King County Council, plus a fifth member agreed upon by the four appointees to serve as Chair. They were required to do in six to eight weeks what normally takes a minimum of at least ten months; yet they still were able to conduct four public hearings as they worked nearly around the clock to meet the legal requirements of this re-districting effort. According to the Chair, they had nearly a thousand individuals providing on-line testimony, and hundreds more came forward to testify in person.

I appreciate the input that was provided from many of my constituents in the 11th District, and it appears that the Commission listened favorably to testimony from residents, city officials, and community leaders concerning communities of interest, natural boundaries and demographic commonalities.

WHAT'S NEXT?

The Commission has voted and the boundaries are set, but that is not the end of the story. Following a 45-day appeal period, work will begin in earnest on the enormous task of adapting voting precincts and the dozens of overlapping jurisdictions to the new County Council map. The County will need to split or adjust almost 250 precincts this year, and many of you will find that your precincts have changed, and in some cases, your voting location. All of this must be done by the County's Records and Elections Division by May 1st, and the County Council must adopt the ordinance approving new precinct boundaries by June 24th.

Every registered voter in King County will receive new voter registration cards whether or not they were affected by re-districting. However, in reality, nearly all voters will be affected in some way, even if it is simply by the re-numbering of the nine remaining districts. New cards will be mailed within one week of adoption of the new precinct boundaries; so the new cards should be in your hands by the end of June.

If you have questions about your precinct designation and how it will affect you, you can call 206-296-VOTE or email: elections@metrokc.gov. Also, I would encourage you to contact my office, 296-296-1011, with any concerns or questions you might have.

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Please visit my website @
www.metrokc.gov/hague

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